

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this patent application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 10-14, and 22-26 have been rejected as being anticipated by Delaney under 35 USC 102. Claims 3-5, 10-14, and 22-26 remain active in this patent application.

The new rejection of the above-identified claims as being based upon Delaney under 35 USC 102 is noted, however, it is respectfully submitted that Delaney in no manner discloses, anticipates, or renders obvious the presently claimed invention as embodied, for example, within currently active independent Claim 22. In particular, Claim 22 specifies that a plurality of ferromagnetic components are disposed within

at least annular array defined around at least one of the point-to-point contact loci defined between at least one pair of adjacent ones of the plurality of spherically-configured magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

Firstly, therefore, Delaney is totally lacking in any teaching of having ferromagnetic components disposed around and magnetically attracted to the magnetic components. ALL of Delaney's components are magnets (see line 5 of paragraph 0042). Therefore, Delaney cannot possibly meet the limitation of the claim reciting the disposition of ferromagnetic components.

Secondly, the plurality of alleged ferromagnetic components 10E of Delaney are NOT disposed within an annular array around point-to-point contact loci defined between adjacent ones of the magnetic components 10D - as clearly illustrated within **FIGURE 2** of Delaney, the magnetic components

10E are interposed between, not around point-to-point contact loci defined between adjacent ones of the magnetic components 10D. In addition, as a result of being interposed between the components 10D, the components 10D do NOT define point-to-point contact loci - adjacent ones of the components 10D are NOT in contact with each other at all.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claim 22, as well as all of the other claims which depend therefrom, patentably defines over Delaney, and therefore, this patent application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to this effect is now anticipated and awaited.

It is lastly noted that this amendment is being filed within a period of three (3) months beyond the normal response due date and therefore a check in the amount of \$510.00 is attached hereto for a three (3) month extension of time fee in connection with a three (3) month extension of

time which is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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